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Letter dated 14 December 2018 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2018. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

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Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Kairat Umarov (Kazakhstan) as Chair and the representatives of the Russian Federation and Uruguay as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 1267 (1999), the Security Council imposed limited air and financial embargoes to compel the Taliban to cease providing sanctuary and training to terrorists, including Usama bin Laden. Between April 2000 and September 2001, the Committee listed 151 individuals and 10 entities associated with the Taliban (including the national airline and the Central Bank of Afghanistan) and 10 individuals associated with Al-Qaida. The Council modified the regime in resolutions 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002) to impose three targeted measures (an asset freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo) against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Exemptions to the asset freeze and travel ban are available.

4. On 17 June 2011, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), by which it split the regime in two, establishing one committee for the Taliban and another for Al-Qaida. The sanctions measures against the Taliban and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities were imposed in resolution 1988 (2011), followed by resolutions 2082 (2012), 2160 (2014) and 2255 (2015).

5. By its resolution 2255 (2015), the Security Council renewed the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities until 17 December 2019. In its resolution 2255 (2015), the Council also provided for listed individuals and entities to request exemptions from the asset freeze and the travel ban through the focal point process established pursuant to resolution 1730 (2006), and requested the Secretary-General to publish the Committee's sanctions list in all official languages of the United Nations, as well as in the Dari and Pashtu languages.

6. Both the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities are supported by the Monitoring Team. The Monitoring Team consisted initially of 8 experts, and the number was increased to 10 experts in resolution 2253 (2015).

7. On 24 August 2017, the President of the Council issued a statement (S/PRST/2017/15) concluding that, after having reviewed the implementation of the measures outlined in resolution 2255 (2015), no further adjustments to the measures were necessary, and requesting the Monitoring Team to submit two annual reports, the first one by 30 April 2018.

8. Further background information on the Taliban sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

9. The Committee met four times in informal consultations, on 15 May, 14 June, 12 November and 3 December 2018, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures. The Committee also met four times in joint informal consultations with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, on 12 February, 13 April, 28 November and 21 December. In addition, the Committee met five times in joint informal consultations with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, on 12 and 22 February, 9 and 29 March and 20 December.

10. During the joint informal consultations held on 12 February with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committees heard a briefing by the Director of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. During the joint informal consultations held on the same day with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committees heard a presentation by the Monitoring Team on its trip to Afghanistan from 17 to 31 October 2017.

11. During the joint informal consultations held on 22 February with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committees were briefed by the Deputy Director of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, Head of the Central Office of the National Anti Terrorism Committee and Deputy Chair of the Committee.

12. During the joint informal consultations held on 9 March with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committees heard a briefing by the Special Envoy of the President of the United States of America for the international counter-ISIL coalition.

13. During the joint informal consultations held on 29 March with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committees were briefed by the Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the Director of Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Morocco, in their capacities as co-chairs of the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

14. During the joint informal consultations held on 13 April with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL

(Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committees received a briefing from the Monitoring Team on its trip to Pakistan from 24 to 25 January.

15. During the informal consultations held on 15 May, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Monitoring Team on its ninth report (S/2018/466), submitted in accordance with the presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/15), and discussed the recommendations contained therein. The Committee's decisions were published in a position paper on 12 June (S/2018/600).

16. During the informal consultations held on 14 June, the Committee discussed draft revised guidelines for the conduct of its work.

17. During the informal consultations held on 12 November, the Committee heard a briefing by the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations on the threat posed by the Taliban, as well as on the progress and challenges with regard to the peace process in Afghanistan, and by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan on developments in Afghanistan.

18. During the joint informal consultations held on 28 November with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the two Committees received a briefing from the Monitoring Team on its visits to Afghanistan in August and September.

19. During the informal consultation held on 3 December 2018, the Committee heard a briefing by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Representative for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries on indirect financing sources for the Taliban and selected listed individuals and entities and the efforts of the Office in Afghanistan.

20. During the joint informal consultations held on 20 December with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committees heard a briefing by a senior official from the United States Department of State Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism.

21. During the joint informal consultations held on 21 December with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committees received a briefing from the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

22. On 2 August, pursuant to paragraph 46 of resolution 2368 (2017) and paragraph 56 of resolution 2255 (2015), the Chair, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee and of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, gave a briefing to interested Member States with a view to raising awareness of the two sanctions regimes, enhancing transparency and improving the dialogue between the Committees and the broader United Nations membership. The Coordinator of the Monitoring Team also briefed Member States.

23. On 17 December, the Chair briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 56 of resolution 2255 (2015), concurrently with the quarterly briefing given to the Council by the Special Representative of the

Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan on developments in Afghanistan.

24. On 3 December, the Committee revised and adopted the guidelines for the conduct of its work.

25. From 31 October to 1 November, the Chair visited Tashkent to attend the sixth international conference on cooperation in combating terrorism, organized by the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

26. From 7 to 8 November, the Chair visited Moscow to participate in the seventeenth Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations.

27. The Committee provided additional guidance to all Member States by issuing three notes verbales, dated 17 July and 14 and 28 December, on the ninth report of the Monitoring Team, the revision of the Committee's guidelines and the procedure for requesting exemptions from the travel ban measures, respectively.

28. The Committee sent 27 communications to nine Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

29. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006), and in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution 2255 (2015).

30. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006), and in paragraphs 19 to 22 of resolution 2255 (2015).

31. The Committee received and approved one request for exemption from the travel ban, which was submitted by the Russian Federation to enable one individual associated with the Taliban to participate in a meeting of the Moscow format on 9 November.

V. Sanctions list

32. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 2255 (2015). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work, and standard forms for listing and delisting are available on the Committee's website.

33. No entries were added to or removed from the list. The Committee approved an amendment to one existing entry on its sanctions list. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 135 individuals and five entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Monitoring Team

34. The Monitoring Team comprises 10 experts with broad experience in international counter-terrorism issues and specific experience in Afghanistan.

35. On 29 December 2017, in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to resolution 2255 (2015), the Monitoring Team submitted to the Committee, for its

approval, its travel plan for the period from January to June 2018. On 23 May, also in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to resolution 2255 (2015), the Monitoring Team submitted to the Committee, for its approval, its planned programme of work and travel plan for the period from September to December 2018.

36. On 30 April 2017, in accordance with the presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/15), the Monitoring Team provided its ninth report concerning the Taliban and other associated individuals and entities constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan (S/2018/466), which was transmitted to the Security Council on 16 May and issued as a document of the Council.

37. On 29 December 2017 and 23 May 2018, the Monitoring Team submitted its combined biannual travel plans for the Committee and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, in accordance with resolutions 2255 (2015) and 2368 (2017). The Monitoring Team conducted country visits to more than 42 Member States and participated in more than 148 regional and international conferences and other meetings, including the eighty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization, held in the United Arab Emirates, and the seventeenth Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations, held in the Russian Federation. The Team also organized three regional forums for security and intelligence services, in Austria, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania.

38. The Monitoring Team conducted three visits to Afghanistan, during which it visited the provinces of Badakhshan, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Nangarhar and Paktya.

39. In December, the Monitoring Team held meetings with incoming members of the Security Council in order to raise awareness of the Team's mandate and work.

40. In pursuance of its mandate, the Monitoring Team, through the Secretariat, sent 300 letters to Member States, regional and international organizations, national entities and the Committee.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

41. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime. The Division supported the visits of the Chair to Uzbekistan, from 31 October to 1 November, and the Russian Federation, from 7 to 8 November.

42. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 5 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the roster of experts. In addition, notes verbales were sent to all Member States on 17 May and 3 October notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Monitoring Team and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. The vacancy announcement on 3 October was also made available online at careers.un.org.

43. The Division continued to provide support to the Monitoring Team, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Team's report submitted in April. In August, the Secretariat circulated an updated handbook for sanctions experts, containing information to facilitate their work and to answer frequently asked questions that may arise during their term. The information is based on relevant United Nations rules and regulations, as well as practices and procedures established by the Secretariat.

44. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, as well as the further development in all official languages of the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 54 of resolution 2368 (2017).